

# Professionals Supporting Fathers

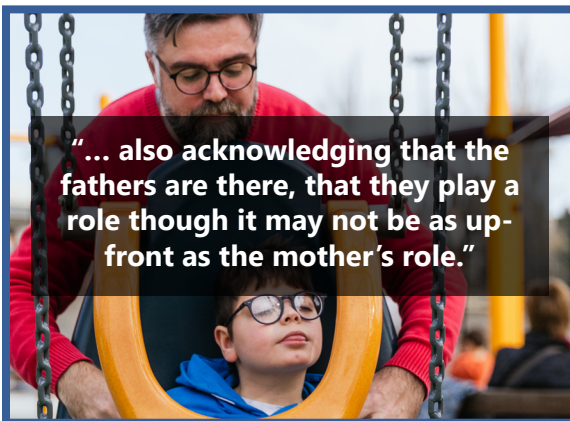
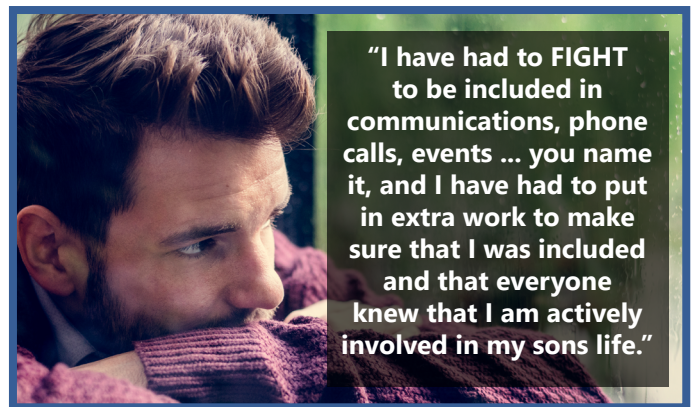
Engaging families at every level and being inclusive of all voices leads to better family and child outcomes, especially if the child has a disability. Fathers are oftentimes not included, partly because professionals, educators, and communities are not certain how dads of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) want to be included and supported. After hearing directly from fathers, the time is now to make certain fathers of children with developmental disabilities are supported, included, and empowered throughout Ohio.

## What Can Professionals Do?

- Offer activities specifically designed to help fathers connect with one another.
- Strive to include fathers in meetings and appointments and ask for their perspectives during conversations.
- Converse with the father during intake as well if he is present, or get his contact information if he is not.
- Offer to email or text information to fathers separately if that will make it more accessible.
- Develop a FAQ database for usual questions that come up from fathers.
- Create a social network for father connections.
- Provide education and resources designed for fathers.

## Common Themes

- Fathers feel isolated and alone.
- Fathers feel undervalued and disregarded in their roles as fathers.
- Fathers feel there isn't accurate and comprehensive information for them.



## Pertinent Data

- 42% of fathers shared virtual connection as a support they do not have that would be helpful.
- 50% of fathers expressed needing more support in understanding programs and services.
- 31% of fathers stated they desire more inclusion in meetings and conversations.
- 51% of fathers desire information and resources specifically tailored for them as something they do not have that would be helpful.

Survey: "A Dad's Perspective: Supporting Fathers of Children with Developmental Disability." Summer 2022. Bringing Fathers Forward Workgroup.

A workgroup with various stakeholders throughout Ohio is collaborating to better support, empower, and engage fathers of children with developmental disabilities. To learn more and connect with resources, visit [www.dodd.ohio.gov/BFF](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/BFF) or email [ohiolifecoursenexus@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:ohiolifecoursenexus@dodd.ohio.gov).